

REMARKS

Claims 75-105 are active in this application.

Claim 75 has been amended to require that the cushion liner covering is coated seamlessly only on the inside thereof with polymeric cushioning material. Claim 92 is directed to the cushion liner covering is coated seamlessly only on the inside thereof with polymeric cushioning material and that has a thickness profile such that the polymeric cushioning material is thicker at a closed end of the covering than at an open end. These embodiments of the present invention are not described in the cited prior art.

Norman (GB 2213380A) describes a stump protective cover composed of a film of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE). In Norman's stump protective cover, the film is formed to the profile of the stump and then inserted into an outer sock and in one embodiment may be sewn or attached to the outer sock (see Figures 1-3 and pages 3-4). However, Norman does not describe a cushion liner which is coated seamlessly only on the inside thereof (see Claim 75 and the claims dependent on Claim 75) nor a cushion liner which is coated seamlessly only on the inside thereof and which has a thickness profile as claimed in Claim 92 (and the claims dependent on Claim 92).

Since Norman does not describe or suggest the cushion liner claimed in Claims 75-105, the present claims are neither anticipated by or obvious in light of this prior art reference. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) is requested.

Lerman (U.S. 4,635,626) describes a prosthetic lining that is made of a flexible protective fabric adhered to an elastomeric layer, such as a flexible resilient open cell material of high density polyester foam (see col. 2, lines 14-62 and col. 2, lines 51-56). To make the lining device, Lerman describes stitching the flat form of each of the layers

together, which then can be wrapped around the amputee's stump (see, for example, col. 4, lines 37-68 and Figures 1-5). However, Lerman does not describe a cushion liner which is coated seamlessly only on the inside thereof (see Claim 75 and the claims dependent on Claim 75) nor a cushion liner which is coated seamlessly only on the inside thereof and which has a thickness profile as claimed in Claim 92 (and the claims dependent on Claim 92).

Since Lerman does not describe or suggest the cushion liner claimed in Claims 75-105, the present claims are neither anticipated by or obvious in light of this prior art reference. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) is requested.

The Office has cited an Abstract of a Soviet Union publication, SU 1739990 A1 and asserting that the claims are anticipated by or obvious in light of this prior art. In place of relying on the Abstract alone, the Examiner has stated that he consulted with a Russian translator to pick out particular information from this Russian publication. However, the Office has not provided any evidence to support these statements, such as a translation of the publication, a partial translation of the publication, nor a Declaration from the Russian translator to point out particularly where the information relied upon in the Office Action is described in this publication. If the Office continues to rely on this Russian publication, Applicants request evidence supporting the conclusions reached by the Examiner.

In any case, with respect to the information that has been provided to the Applicants, the Russian publication does not describe the claimed cushion liner which is coated seamlessly only on the inside thereof (see Claim 75 and the claims dependent on Claim 75) nor a cushion liner which is coated seamlessly only on the inside thereof and which has a thickness profile as claimed in Claim 92 (and the claims dependent on Claim 92).

Since this Russian publication does not describe or suggest the cushion liner claimed in Claims 75-105, the present claims are neither anticipated by or obvious in light of this prior art reference. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) is requested.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims are allowable over the cited prior art, and request early notification to this effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 75 as follows.

75. (Twice Amended) A cushion liner for enclosing an amputation stump, said liner comprising a fabric stump covering having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said fabric coated seamlessly on only the inside thereof with polymeric cushioning material, wherein said polymeric cushioning material optionally has a thickness profile such that the polymeric cushioning material is thicker at a closed end of the covering than at an open end.

Claims 92-105 are added.